

# NDN IS BLOOMING

Ice is out, spring has sprung, and NDN is growing its reach!

## Expanding to Readfield

*NDN is excited to report that we are growing! This spring, we expanded our services to residents of Readfield, and are welcoming new riders and drivers from the area.*

Neighbors Driving Neighbors is now providing free transportation to residents of Readfield who don't drive.

"Readfield and we have had each other in our sights for over a year and are thrilled that this collaboration is now being realized," NDN President Harald Bredesen said.

Readfield Town Manager Eric Dyer echoed Bredesen. "We've been admiring the value NDN delivers to its service-area communities and look forward to a successful launch over the next several months," he said. "This is an important piece of the puzzle for communities like ours with close proximity to service centers but limited transportation options."

A working group made up of representatives of

NDN and Readfield is recruiting an initial group of drivers and riders with a plan to initiate service provision in the spring. "We'll be scheduling training sessions for prospective

drivers and conducting intake interviews of residents who are looking for rides," said Joe Austin, NDN's executive director.

Bredesen added that NDN volunteer drivers have now driven more than 100,000 miles to help over 180 different riders get to where they need to go. "The heart of NDN is the volunteer driver. It is that community spirit

that makes NDN possible and that makes Readfield a natural next step. What better way to mark the 100,000th mile than to invite the neighbors?"

Interested riders and drivers can email Joe Austin at [jaustin.ndn@gmail.com](mailto:jaustin.ndn@gmail.com).



## Did you know...

- NDN is now in it's 8th year of providing rides?
- NDN follows COVID guidelines so that both riders and drivers feel safe?
- NDN screens its volunteer drivers to maintain strict safety protocols?
- NDN provided 167 rides or deliveries for clients in the first quarter of 2023?
- NDN volunteers drove over 4,570 miles in the first quarter of 2023?
- NDN volunteers put in 181 hours of their personal time driving neighbors to medical appointments, grocery shopping, fun shopping, and church?

## Contact Info:

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## NDN Passes 100,000 Miles Driven Milestone

**100,000**

miles driven. That's about four times around the Earth!

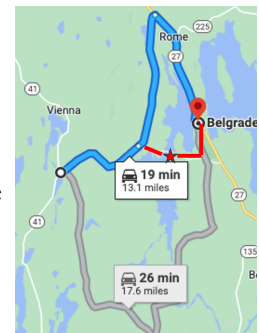


It's been a challenging few years of pandemic and post-pandemic hurdles, but the future is looking bright. One highlight for us has been a look back at the now 100,000+ miles driven by our amazing volunteers. We are so grateful to all our volunteer drivers and to our riders who place their trust in our services.

## Castle Island Bridge Opens

Last August, one of the bridges to Castle Island, originally scheduled for replacement in 2024, was closed due to a sink hole. As you can imagine this disrupted travel for our riders west of Long Pond to points east. For example, the detour on a trip from Mount Vernon to Belgrade Lakes added 6 to 13 miles each way depending on the route.

If you have deferred travel due to this inconvenience, your wait is over—and the round-trips you need can be 30-40 minutes shorter. So, pick up the phone and give us a call at (207) 860-0677.



## A Look Ahead

**June:** Readfield Expansion Celebration; date and venue TBA

**July:** Annual Auction Online. Check out [BiddingOwl.com](http://BiddingOwl.com) after July 1 for items!

